

Remarks

I. Status of the Claims

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 1-4, 6-15 and 18-21 are pending, rejected claims 1-2, 4, 6-11, 15 and 18; objected to claims 3, and 12-14; and claims 19-21 are allowed. Therefore, claims 1-4, and 6-18 are pending for reconsideration.

II. Rejection of Claims 1 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a),

In paragraph 2 of the office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Kou (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0030429A1), hereinafter Kou.

In response, Applicant cancels claims 1 and 15.

III. Rejection of Claim 2, 4, 6-10 11, 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In paragraph 3, Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Flanagan in view of Kou, as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Ramamurthi (U.S. Pat. No. 5251144).

In response, Applicant cancels Claim 2.

In paragraph 4, Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Flanagan et al. in view of Kou, and further in view of Ramamurthi, as applied to claims 1 and 2 above, and further in view of Talbott (U.S. Pat. No. 6411908).

In response, Applicant cancels Claim 4.

In paragraph 4, Claims 6-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(1) as being unpatentable over Flanagan et al. in view of Kou, and further in view of Ramamurthi et al., as applied to claims 1 and 2 above, and further in view of Kon (U.S. Pat. No. 6249838 B1) and Kaehler et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6092410).

In response, Applicant cancels Claims 6-10.

In paragraph 5, Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Flanagan et al. in view of Kou, as applied in claim 1 above, and further in view of Kuwabara (JP05264371, English translation).

In response, Applicant cancels Claim 11.

In paragraph 6, claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Flanagan et al. in view of Kou, as applied to claim 15 above, and further in view of Grimm (U.S. Pub. No 2002/0107589 A1).

In response, Applicant cancels claim 18.

In paragraph 7, the Examiner states that "Claims 3 and 12-14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, Applicant has rewritten claim 3 as an independent claim, including all the limitations of claims 1 and 2 from which claim 3 depends. Claim 3 should now be allowable. Applicant has rewritten claim 12 as an independent claim, including all the limitations of claims 1 and 11 from which claim 12 depends. Claim 12 should now be allowable. Claims 13 and 14 depend from claim 12 which should now be allowable, therefore claims 13 and 14 should also now be allowable.

III. Allowable Subject Matter claims 19-21

Applicant thanks the Examiner for stating that claims 19-21 are allowable.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing comments and amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 3 and 12-14 are in condition for allowance. Claims 19-21 were previously allowed. Applicant respectfully requests that the application, with claims 3, 12-14, and 19-21, be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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